

Opinions

WMNJ: the ongoing saga

By Mike Falk
Staff Writer

WITH all due apologies to Chuck Berry, "Just don't play none of that rock 'n' roll music if it sounds good we can't use it. The format we will choose it Audience we will lose it Can't be rock 'n' roll music If a DJ's what you wanna be"

This is the policy the powers-that-be at WMNJ are following this year. The resulting conflict between the executive board and "dumped DJs" like myself has incited a storm of controversy over the past few weeks.

In trying to resolve the conflict, both parties must look carefully at the motivations behind the decision and the consequences of any actions taken.

General Manager Melissa Kennedy and Air Staff Director Colleen Dube reserved the weeknight prime-time hours for progressive music, with Saturday night slated for heavy metal and a night of jazz on Sunday. This ostensibly freed the morning and afternoon slots for album oriented rock, but when the schedules were made up, AOR showed up only in the early morning hours.

Kennedy and Dube have reiterated that in the ongoing struggle to expand to 100 watts, the station has a responsibility to the community to present alternative types of music. College radio should be diverse, they say.

This diversity apparently includes restricting an indisputably popular type to the hours when most people are asleep and those who are awake have better things to do than listen to the radio.

The mere fact that the current Board of Directors is taking obvious steps to try to improve the station is a good sign. In an organization that has been marked by lackluster leadership in recent years, the efforts of Kennedy and Dube are a welcome change.

Whether or not they are making the right moves is the question at hand. Kennedy asserted that the quality of the programming has been better this year. It is unknown if listenership is up from last year, but it certainly couldn't be down.

By all but eliminating one type of music from the station's repertoire, however, the executive board has alienated a large sector of DJs and, presumably, would-be listeners. This from a station which gets little support as is from the campus. Kennedy freely admitted this at last Tuesday's meeting, saying that the station is played in neither the University Center nor the Commons.

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The UC: let's start over

By Steve Lemanski
Staff Writer

YOU walk through it several times a day, seven days a week, fifteen weeks a semester, two semesters a year, for four years. But don't you dread performing this chore? The U.C. is analogous to a car wash doing its job in reverse; clean, vivacious college students stroll in one door, and ragged, tired-looking ones trudge out the exit, wondering why they bothered to get up in the morning.

Yet Drew is indifferent to this problem, choosing instead to allocate funds from its present Capital Campaign to other projects. Many have hailed the proposed Sports Complex as a long-awaited, necessary addition to the Drew campus; no one has mentioned the fact that in the survey that Drew students filled out a year ago, a new U.C. was desired by more students than was a new Sports Complex.

The President's Desk: Alcohol Awareness Week

By Twilla Driggins
SGA President

MONDAY, October 19, is the beginning of National Alcohol Awareness Week.

Colleges and universities around the nation will be taking this opportunity to educate their students about the necessity of responsible drinking on campus. The administration has long advocated that Drew students be made aware of the peril of imbibing in mass quantities; why, then, is the only administrator actively supporting this important week the Director of Student Activities?

One of the major reasons for banning kegs on campus was the alleged "irresponsibility" of the student body in matters pertaining to drinking. The dangers of the "ya-gotta-finish-the-keg" referred to so often by the Dean of Students and Director of Housing can be directly ad-

dressed through entertaining, educational activities that discuss exactly the concerns expressed by these offices.

Incredibly, neither one of these offices has pledged any substantial amount of money to subsidize any of the various activities. It is a sad irony that the Office of Student Activities, which has the most meager budget of all the offices mentioned, has to shoulder the burden of educating an entire campus about an issue that other give lip service to.

What does all this mean to the "irresponsible, miseducated" students of Drew? It means we have an opportunity to prove to our administrators that their claims are false. By attending these events, students are demonstrating their concern and dedication to the promotion of responsible drinking.

The activities planned range from social events such as Twinings Tea Night (remember those mugs?) and a University

Center Board-sponsored "suitcase party," to more serious topics including speakers from Adult Children of Alcoholics (A.C.O.A.) and noted sexologist Dr. Roger Libby, who will discuss sex and alcohol on the college campus.

Alcohol Awareness Week has provided the students an excellent opportunity to discredit a major argument used in defense of the changes made to the alcohol policy. It is important that we attend these events and actively illustrate our desire to end our "alcohol ignorance."

Once we have done this, the proverbial ball is in the other court. After all, if the students consider alcohol awareness a subject serious enough to devote a week to attending events, yet administrators can't seem to financially support these activities, what does that say about their sincerity? At this stage of the game, good faith is not enough.

Enquiring minds want to know

By Jamie Morrison
Staff Writer

AMERICA, it seems, is looking for a president who is perfect in every way, completely blameless and morally upright in all circumstances; in short, a person who does not exist.

It is no secret that Gary Hart has been forced out of the presidential race for allegedly committing adultery, and that Joseph Biden has suffered the same fate for pilfering portions of campaign speeches from others, as well as plagiarizing and misrepresenting his performance in law school. But how many Americans can claim a degree of innocence that gives them license to judge candidates according to these kinds of holier-than-thou criteria?

Some say that the president, in addition to his countless other roles, is supposed to be the moral leader of the country. The U.S., however, is in a sad state of affairs indeed if Americans cannot figure out how to live moral lives on their own and must look to the president for an example.

Additionally, what American, when faced with a tough decision, will say, "What would the president do in this situation? Well, he would probably remain true to his wife, so I think I will also."

Maybe we want a leader who represents values that we, as Americans, cherish but do not live by; the president is the thin veneer of morality laid over America's crumbling ethics. We chastise our presidential candidates for having splinters in their eyes while we continue to stumble

DUDS is insensitive to Drew Catholics

By Ray Smith
Staff Writer

NOW that the Drew University Dramatics Society has decided to produce "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You," I wish someone would explain it all for me.

For instance, why would a progressive institution like Drew want to put a vicious attack on the Roman Catholic Church which has been condemned by such groups as the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and the Catholic League for Civil and Religious Rights?

Or why, on a campus disrupted by bigotry and intolerance last year, DUDS

would have the bad taste and insensitivity to produce a play which an American Catholic bishop called "a vile diatribe against all things Catholic," before urging the half million Catholics in his diocese to boycott its production?

Indeed, what can be said in defense of this play, which details the confrontation between a pre-Vatican II parochial school nun and the grown students whose lives she destroyed?

Is it great art? I am not qualified to judge the artistic merits of a work of drama, but one reviewer called it "not so much a play as a poorly conceived Saturday Night Live sketch." While the play has been successful, one is justified in asking whether this success has been due to its actual merits or the latent anti-Catholicism of both its audiences and the critics who lavish praise on it.

Is the play, then, an insightful social commentary? Another reviewer noted that as the play progresses it, "totally loses credibility; a viciousness pervades that grounds up wit, social observation and moral criticism."

But, even if its artistic and social value can be called into question, is it really anti-Catholic *per se*? Allan Wayne, who produced the play off Broadway, insisted that it is not an attack on Catholicism, but on "the abuse of power."

However, as the Catholic League for Civil and Religious Rights points out, "The play is about a Catholic nun, a Catholic school, Catholic students and Catholic teachings. It looks like a duck, walks like a duck and quacks like a duck. But producer Wayne assures us it is a flamingo."

This is not to suggest that the Catholic Church should be a topic off limits for dramatic presentation. In fact, other hit plays such as "Agnes of God" and "Mass

around with logs in our own.

It has been widely asserted that a candidate's misconduct in his personal life is necessarily indicative of presidential incompetence. Some of our most respected leaders, however, have had questionable morals. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was known to be unfaithful to his wife just as John F. Kennedy cheated on Jackie. Even Thomas Jefferson was rumored to have had affairs with his slaves.

On the other hand, while President Reagan is apparently faithful to Nancy, the Iran-contra affair has shown us that he was completely ignorant of the behavior of his subordinates, Admiral Poindexter and Colonel North.

Much has been made of the fact that Gary Hart exercised poor judgement by daring the press to catch him red-handed. This "womanizing" issue has dogged Hart in recent years, and to accuse him of bad judgement in this case is to accuse him of bad judgement in all cases of infidelity; he was bound to get caught sooner or later.

This is certainly a valid criticism, though it hardly follows that, because Hart makes questionable decisions involving his personal life, he would exercise poor judgement in international and domestic affairs.

Of course, the television and print media are prime culprits in all of this. Motivated by greed and visions of big promotions for bringing back the dirtiest dirt on a candidate, many reporters pander to the lowest common denominator in American society.

Matters of real importance, the issues, as it were, get glossed over in favor of what sells. Memories of Reagan's polyps and Carter's hemorrhoids jump to mind as examples. Does Gary Hart use fiesta-colored condoms? Enquiring minds want to know.

The point is that there are far more important criteria for judging a candidate's fitness for public office than the peculiarities of his or her private life. The media attaches great importance to these personal matters, since that is what sells. No one is close to perfect, however, and we must learn to accept the bad with the good.

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WMNJ: the ongoing saga

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WMNJ is not only a club, it is a corporation. The decisions made by the executives have to make good business sense. The goal of a radio station is to be listened to. For a station attempting to increase its audience, a simple step is to appeal to the greatest number of people.

This essentially amounts to a "something for everyone" situation, though not necessarily the smorgasbord that was WMNJ last year. Dube and Kennedy have shown their willingness to work for the station; certainly they are capable of generating enough publicity so that people know when their favorite type of music is on.

But switching to one type of music during the most listened-to weekday hours achieves just the opposite effect—that of appealing to only one group of listeners. It is a decision which does not make good business sense.

The decision also ignores the human aspect. Being a DJ is fun, and most (if not all) of us will never get another opportunity to control what comes out over the airwaves. DJs who have faithfully given two hours a week to the radio station for each of the past four semesters should be rewarded with at least the chance to do it again at a reasonable hour.

To snub these people altogether speaks volumes for the value of loyalty in the

minds of the Board of Directors. The first thing a freshman DJ is told is "take a bad slot now; you'll get a better slot later on when you have more experience." Promises, promises.

We've paid our dues; time comes to reap what we have sown, and we are told that things have changed: "You can take it or leave it." If we were professional DJs, we could take our services elsewhere. But we're not professionals, we're just students.

Where does that leave us? We're screw-

ed, royally. Although Kennedy and Dube have shown a blatant unwillingness to change the situation, we do have the power to make changes.

Telling people not to listen to WMNJ is not the solution. All of us want a better radio station, and such actions would only stifle our chances of ever getting back on the air. Besides, it would take forever to find the people who do listen to the station.

Nor should we call for a mass shakeup of the current DJ schedule. Those who

did get shows have a right to be on the air. In attempting to claim their shows, we wouldn't be practicing what we preach.

Whining and complaining won't get us anywhere, either. In electing Kennedy and Dube to their respective offices, we theoretically gave them the right to dictate station policy.

What we can do is serve the radio station in other capacities—as substitute DJs, on the news or sports staffs, by doing special programs, or by participating in any of the various other committees. By staying involved, we will also help WMNJ become a better radio station.

As full-fledged members of the radio station, we will retain our right to vote in the next general election. Then we can do all the rockin' we want.

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Drew because of the dismay they feel after touring what should be the center of campus life.

Yet Drew has chosen instead to build a Sports Complex because it feels that better athletic facilities will draw more high-quality athletes. Here is where Drew's logic becomes fuzzy. What type of student does the school want to attract? Hasn't Drew always prided itself on the fact that its students excel at academics? This is not to say that athletics and academics are ...ually exclusive; they aren't. But isn't it more logical to build a new U.C. that would benefit all students, and more importantly, be a more effective recruiting tool than new sports facilities?

Now that Drew is shifting away from alcohol-related activities, it needs to have a place where students can go to have a good time, to talk, to be proud of when showing it to friends who visit from other schools. The fact that all of the comedians who have performed in the Pub this semester joked about the conditions in the U.C. (the classic line being, "I see they spared no expense with the lighting...") should tell the administration that the current U.C. does not fit the image that Drew wishes to project.

If Drew truly wishes to compete with blue-chip schools like Williams and Amherst, it must strengthen itself from the center outwards. Its current policy appears to be working in the opposite direction... one can hear the angry masses chanting, "Tear down the walls! Tear down the walls!"

With a little perseverance, maybe the *fuhrer-bunker unter den Baumen* will become the Monticello of Madison.

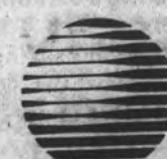
REMEMBER: No classes Thursday or Friday. It's reading break (Ha, Ha)

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